

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BERN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 053713

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SZ

SUBJECT: 1976 ANNUAL ASSESSMENT

REF:(A) STATE 289641, (B) STATE 247971

1. EUR/CE OFFERS FOLLOWING COMMENTS WHICH MAY BE USEFUL TO EMBASSY IN PREPARATION OF POLICY ASSESSMENT CABLE DUE IN DEPARTMENT BY APRIL 1.

2. WE BELIEVE THE 1975 ASSESSMENT (REF B) REMAINS VALID ALMOST IN ITS ENTIRETY. SOME UPDATING IS REQUIRED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF RESULTS OF 1975 ELECTIONS, SWISS APPROVAL OF THE JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE TREATY, AND SWISS PARTICIPATION IN CIEC. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE SOMEWHAT FULLER TREATMENT OF THE BASIC OUTLOOK OF THE SWISS ON POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES OF CONCERN TO US, ALONG THE LINES OF THE EXCELLENT ANALYSIS CONTAINED BERN 3655 OF 29 AUGUST 1975.

3. A SPECIAL ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE THIS YEAR TO ANALYZE ATTITUDES OF THE GOS AND THE SWISS BANKING/BUSINESS COMMUNITY REGARDING VARIOUS TRANSNATIONAL PROBLEMS OF
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CURRENT CONCERN (E.G. MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS,

SUPERVISION OF BANK ACTIVITIES, CORPORATE BRIBERY,
SECURITIES FRAUDS, ETC). OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT FOR SOME

TIME TO COME THE DOMINANT THEME SOUNDED BY THE SWISS
WILL CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE SWITZERLAND'S TRADITIONAL
CONCEPT OF SOVEREIGNTY, THE RESTRICTIVENESS OF SWISS
BANKING AND COMMERCIAL SECRECY LAWS, AND THE RESULTANT
LIMITATIONS ON SWISS ABILITY TO COOPERATE IN INVESTIGA-
TIONS, DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION, ETC. HOWEVER, THERE
HAVE BEEN SOME INDICATIONS IN RECENT MONTHS (EG. THE
SEC V AIC CASE AND SWISS COOPERATION WITH DUTCH
INVESTIGATORS IN LOCKHEED CASE) WHICH SUGGEST PERHAPS
SOME DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY IN SWISS POSTURE ON SUCH
MATTERS, AT LEAST WHEN CONCRETE SWISS ECONOMIC INTERESTS
ARE AT STAKE AND/OR THE SWISS FEAR DAMAGE TO THEIR
INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION. WE RECOGNIZE THAT GENERALIZA-
TIONS IN THIS AREA ARE HAZARDOUS AND THAT SWISS ATTITUDES
ARE MIXED AND PERHAPS ONLY IN VERY TENTATIVE STAGES OF
EVOLUTION, BUT POST'S IMPRESSIONS OF THE GENERAL
ATMOSPHERE AND SOME TREATMENT OF THE DIFFERENT POINTS
OF VIEW WITHIN THE GOS AND AMONG INFLUENTIAL SWISS WOULD
BE VERY USEFUL. KISSINGER

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